

# Rain Gardens in Grass Lawn Park

## ADD BEAUTY AND FUNCTIONALITY

Rain that falls onto this pavilion's roof and play area eventually drains into two rain gardens (also called bio-retention filters). A well constructed rain garden may look just like a garden planting bed, but it is in fact much more! By using a combination of mulch, compost, well-drained soil, and plants, rain gardens store and clean rainwater by slowly releasing it into the ground.

**Rain gardens benefit both people and the natural environment by:**

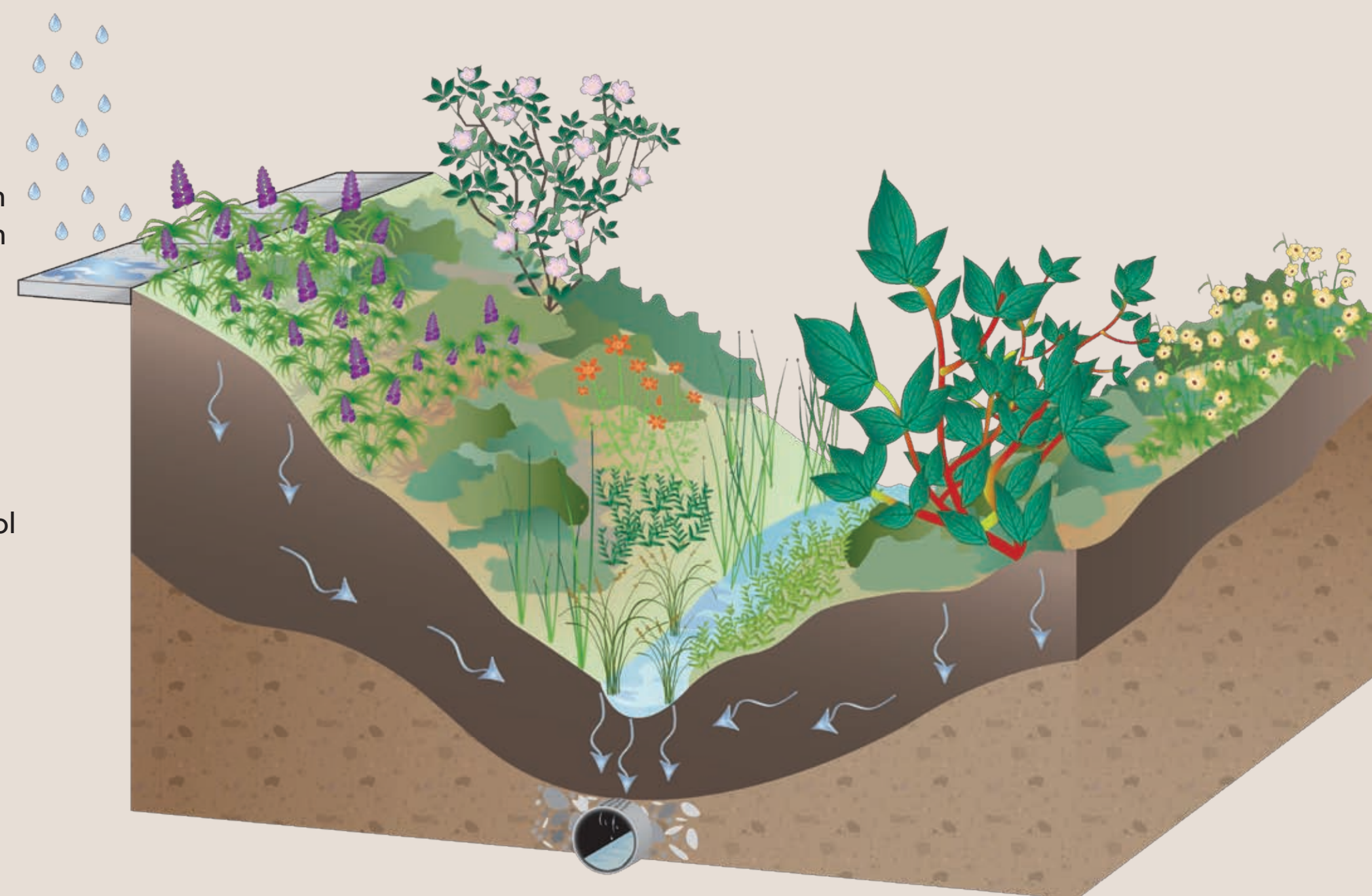
- **Filtering Pollution** mixed in stormwater runoff. Pollutants from vehicles such as oil and heavy metals, and pollutants from our yards such as fertilizer, pesticides and pet waste often mix with stormwater runoff. Successful rain gardens contain selected plants and micro-organisms within the soil which filter and digest such pollutants, transforming them into harmless compounds.
- **Resupplying Groundwater** by allowing clean water to slowly soak into the earth. Groundwater is an important resource, especially in Redmond, because a portion of our drinking water comes from well water stored in the ground.
- **Maintaining Stream Flows** during summer months. Groundwater feeds streams during dry months. By allowing water to soak into the ground, nearby streams are provided with a continuous flow of clean and cool water, benefiting fish and wildlife.

For more information, visit [www.redmond.gov](http://www.redmond.gov)

Not only do rain gardens filter pollutants, they can also absorb enough rainwater to sustain plant growth without additional watering!



Rain gardens can also be used in residential areas



## Rain Garden Basics

1. **Locate** your rain garden in an area that will receive stormwater runoff.
2. **Size** your rain garden depending on the volume of runoff that can be directed to it. A typical rain garden has 6-12" of ponding depth and an additional 12-24" of well-drained soil mix.
3. **Build** your rain garden. Layout shape, excavate, amend soil, and ensure runoff will be received.
4. **Plant** your rain garden. Many of our native plants are excellent rain garden choices. Some examples are the Red-twig Dogwood, Nootka Rose, Lady Fern, and Western Iris.

For more detailed information search "Rain Garden Handbook" at: [www.pierce.wsu.edu](http://www.pierce.wsu.edu)

